REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on March 18, 2002, claims 6-9 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite; claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zdepski in view of Schneier; claims 2, 3, 7, 8 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zdepski in view of Schneier and further in view of Dwork; claims 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zdepski and Schneier; claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier and Zdepski and further in view of Linehan; and claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zdepski and Schneier and further in view of Dwork.

Claims 6 and 16 have been amended to overcome the corresponding § 112 rejections. Newly added claims 21-26 are patentable over the cited art. The remaining rejections are discussed in the corresponding sections below.

A marked-up version of the amended claims is submitted as a separate document. The undersigned has endeavored to ensure that the clean and marked-up versions of the amended claims correspond. However, the Examiner is specifically requested to verify that these two versions of the claims are consistent.

Rejections of Claims 1-5:

The method of claim 1 includes receiving a request from a first computer system for identification of a second computer system, retrieving an identifier that identifies the second computer system and encrypting the identifier with a key that is associated with the first computer system to produce a hash value. The hash value is provided to the first computer system in response to the request.

The Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for rejecting claim 1. In this manner, in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must a suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the general level of skill in the art to support the combination or modification. However, the Examiner fails to specifically point out where the suggestion or motivation exists in the cited references. In this, the Examiner must refer to a specific portion of the cited references to provide support for the suggestion or motivation to modify Zdepski. *Ex parte Gambogi*, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1209, 1212 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 2001); *In re Rijckaert*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1955, 1957 (Fed. Cir. 1993); M.P.E.P. § 2143.

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Zdepski teaches a one-way communication between a subscriber platform 145 (i.e., a decoder) and a transactional server system 270. In this manner, the subscriber platform 145 transmits an information request 275 that includes an encrypted subscriber identification and a method request block. Zdepski, 4:16-22. However, Zdepski neither teaches nor suggests that the subscriber platform 145 furnishes the subscriber identification in response to a request (from the system 270, for example) of its identification. In this manner, the only communication between the transactional server system 270 and the subscriber platform 145 in regards to this identification communication is an acknowledgment that the communication has been received. Zdepski, 4:44-46. However, such acknowledgment does not constitute a request for an identification.

The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to modify Zdepski in view of Schneier. However, there is no motivation for such a modification. In this manner, there is no motivation for the transactional server system 270 to request the identification of the subscriber platform 145 because the communication between the subscriber platform 145 and the transactional server system 270 is a one-way communication.

Thus, for at least the reason that the Examiner provides no support for a motivation or suggestion to combine Zdepski and Schneier, claim 1 overcomes the § 103 rejection.

Claim 1 overcomes the § 103 rejection for at least the additional reason that Zdepski neither teaches nor suggests that the "subscriber identification" set forth in Zdepski identifies the subscriber platform 145. In this manner "subscriber identification" is unambiguous and could refer to an account number, for example. Thus, "subscriber identification" does not specifically refer to identification of a particular computer system, as set forth in claim 1. Thus, for at least this additional reason, claim 1 overcomes the § 103 rejection.

Claims 2-5 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 6-9:

As amended, the apparatus of claim 6 includes an interface and a processor. The interface is adapted to receive a request from a computer system for identification of the apparatus. The interface is also adapted to furnish a hash value that identifies the apparatus to the computer system. The processor is coupled to the interface and is adapted to encrypt an

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identifier that identifies the apparatus with a key that is associated with the computer system to produce the hash value.

As discussed above in connection with claim 1, the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, as no support is given for a suggestion or motivation to modify Zdepski as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 6 overcomes the § 103 rejection.

Furthermore, neither Zdepski nor Schneier teaches or suggests an identifier that identifies an apparatus that includes a processor. In this manner, as discussed above, Zdepski teaches encrypting a subscriber identification with a data base server public key but neither teaches nor suggests that this subscriber identification identifies the subscriber platform 145. Thus, for at least this additional reason, claim 6 overcomes the § 103 rejection.

Claims 7-9 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 10-14:

The article of claim 10 includes a storage medium that is readable by a first processor-based system. The storage medium stores instructions to cause the processor to receive a key from another processor-based system for identifying the first system, determine whether the key is valid and based on the identification, selectively authorize encryption of an identifier that identifies the first system with the key to produce a hash value.

See discussion of claim 1 above. In particular, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established, as the Examiner fails to provide support for a suggestion or motivation for the modification of Zdepski. Furthermore, neither reference teaches nor suggests encrypting an identifier that identifies a processor-based system. Thus, for at least these reasons, claim 10 overcomes the § 103 rejection.

Claims 11-14 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 15-20:

The microprocessor of claim 15 includes an instruction unit, an execution unit and a bus interface unit. The instruction unit is adapted to indicate when the instruction unit receives an instruction that requests an identifier that identifies the microprocessor. The execution unit is

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coupled to the instruction unit and is adapted to, in response to the indication from the instruction unit, encrypt a key with the identifier to produce a hash value. The bus interface unit is coupled to the execution unit and is adapted to furnish an indication of the hash value to external pins of the microprocessor.
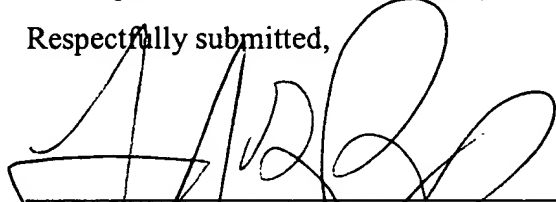
See discussion of claim 1 above. In particular, the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for at least the reason that no support for a suggestion or motivation to modify Zdepski. Furthermore, none of these references teaches or suggests receiving an instruction that requests an identifier to identify a microprocessor. Furthermore, none of the references teaches or suggests an execution unit of a microprocessor encrypting a key with an identifier to produce a hash value. Thus, for at least these reasons, claim 15 overcomes the § 103 rejection.

Claims 16-20 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend form an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0160US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Fred G. Pruner, Jr., Reg. No. 40,779
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
713/468-8880 [Phone]/713/468-8883 [Fax]

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